

I believe our justice system is stronger when it incorporates the insights of experts who have worked across the legal spectrum. That is why, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have worked to confirm Federal judges who have served as public defenders. These perspectives have long been excluded from the Federal bench, which is a disservice to the American public. Thankfully, we are finally changing course. Last year, this Senate confirmed the first former public defender to ever serve on the Supreme Court: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

And in the past 2 years, we have confirmed more circuit judges with experience as public defenders than all prior Presidents combined. One of them is Judge Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, who serves on the Seventh Circuit in my home State of Illinois. Back in 2017, Judge Jackson-Akiwumi reflected on her time as a public defender—and how it tested her as a legal professional.

She wrote that, as a public defender, “I am a counselor, helping clients to navigate difficult choices. . . . I am a teacher, introducing clients and their families to the federal court system

“[and] I am a lay social worker: many of our clients have disadvantaged backgrounds, extensive mental health histories, substance abuse issues, and other everyday challenges.”

When you work as a public defender, the job demands a lot more than a simple attorney-client relationship. It is a job that demands resourcefulness, thoughtfulness, and quick, strategic thinking. These are the same qualities we need in the judges who serve on our Nation’s Federal courts. And they are the same qualities people look for when they enter the courtroom as a plaintiff or defendant.

So as we honor National Public Defender Day this weekend, I want to thank all of our courageous and dedicated public defense attorneys across America. We are grateful for your commitment to defending equal justice under law.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 858. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 858

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cameras in the Courtroom Act”.

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

#### “§ 678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings

“The Supreme Court shall permit television coverage of all open sessions of the Court unless the Court decides, by a vote of the majority of justices, that allowing such coverage in a particular case would constitute a violation of the due process rights of 1 or more of the parties before the Court.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 862. A bill to address health workforce shortages through additional funding for the National Health Service Corps, and to establish a National Health Service Corps Emergency Service demonstration project; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 862

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Restoring America’s Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

(a) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

“(J) \$675,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

“(K) \$825,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

(b) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS EMERGENCY SERVICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Part B of title XXVIII of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 2812 (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11) the following:

#### “SEC. 2812A. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS EMERGENCY SERVICE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years [2024] through [2026], from the amounts made available under section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to the extent permitted by, and consistent with, the requirements of applicable State law, the Secretary shall allocate up to \$50,000,000 to establishing, as a demonstration project, a National Health Service Corps Emergency Service (referred to in this section as the ‘emergency service’) under which a qualified individual currently or previously participating in the National Health Service Corps agrees to engage in service through the National Disaster Medical System established under section 2812, as described in this section.

“(b) PARTICIPANTS.—

“(1) NHSC ALUMNI.—

“(A) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual may be eligible to participate in the

emergency service under this section if such individual participated in the Scholarship Program under section 338A or the Loan Repayment Program under section 338B, and satisfied the obligated service requirements under such program, in accordance with the individual’s contract.

“(B) PRIORITY AND INCREASED FUNDING AMOUNTS.—

“(i) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible individuals to participate in the program under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority—

“(I) first, to qualified individuals who continue to practice at the site where the individual fulfilled his or her obligated service under the Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program through the time of the application to the program under this section; and

“(II) secondly, to qualified individuals who continue to practice in any site approved for obligated service under the Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program other than the site at which the individual served.

“(ii) INCREASED FUNDING AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may grant increased award amounts to certain participants in the program under this section based on the site where a participant fulfilled his or her obligated service under the Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program.

“(C) PRIVATE PRACTICE.—An individual participating in the emergency service under this section may practice a health profession in any private capacity when not obligated to fulfill the requirements described in subsection (c).

“(2) CURRENT NHSC MEMBERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is participating in the Scholarship Program under section 338A or the Loan Repayment Program under section 338B may apply to participate in the program under this section while fulfilling the individual’s obligated services under such program.

“(B) CLARIFICATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any contract with respect to service requirements under the Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program, an individual fulfilling service requirements described in subsection (c) shall not be considered in breach of such contract under such Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program, provided that the individual give advance and reasonable notification to the site at which the individual is fulfilling his or her obligated service requirements under such contract, and the site approves the individual’s deployment through the National Disaster Medical System.

“(C) NO CREDIT TOWARD OBLIGATED SERVICE.—No period of service under the National Disaster Medical System described in subsection (c)(1) shall be counted toward satisfying a period of obligated service under the Scholarship Program or Loan Repayment Program.

“(c) PARTICIPANTS AS MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.—

“(1) SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—An individual participating in the program under this section shall participate in the activities of the National Disaster Medical System under section 2812 in the same manner and to the same extent as other participants in such system.

“(2) RIGHTS AND REQUIREMENTS.—An individual participating in the program under this section shall be considered participants in the National Disaster Medical System and shall be subject to the rights and requirements of subsections (c) and (d) of section 2812.

“(d) EMERGENCY SERVICE PLAN.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the